

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a material handling tool comprising a tool body, a plurality of needles mounted to the tool body, each of the plurality of needles constructed and arranged to remove material from a work area and deposit material on a work area. The handling tool further comprising a plurality of plungers moveable in the tool body where each of the plurality of plungers associated with a corresponding one of the plurality of needles, wherein each of the plungers has a passageway that allows fluid flow through the plunger. The handling tool further comprising a controller constructed and arranged to individually address each of the passageways so that flow in each of the passageways is individually controlled. The controller further comprises a plurality of actuators, each of the actuators including a membrane valve that controls fluid flow with respect to a corresponding passageway and is capable of opening and closing a corresponding passageway and a plurality of drive switches that controls flow through a passageway opened by an actuator.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JYOTI NAGPAUL whose telephone number is (571)272-1273. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday (10:00-7:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JN

/Jill Warden/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797